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D2N2 Chief Executive and Chair Assurance Statement

(The D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, January 2021)

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D2N2 is fully committed to a strong culture of accountable governance and has embedded the highest levels of transparency and accountability in all aspects of its governance and decision making. We Continue to hold ourselves to the highest standards of Governance and continuous improvement, keeping up to date with the latest Government standards and reflect this across our Board structures.

Within the last year we have recruited 6 new private sector board members to the LEP Board, and they have all been appointed through open and transparent calls with a full process of recruitment undertaken by the Nominations and Remunerations committee. The Nominations and Remunerations committee was formalised within D2N2's governance structure as part of the Local Assurance Framework refresh which was approved by the LEP Board in November.

As part of the Board induction process, we ensure that full visibility is in place for new company directors with new directors being added to companies House upon appointment. As standard for each of the new directors' inductions we ensure that all new members complete and sign a Declaration of Interest and the LEPs code of conduct, which can be seen on the LEPs website.

As a result of the open recruitment process, we have maintained the gender balance targets and private sector representation on the board and will continue to monitor this through our succession planning of Board members.

From an internal review of governance and work practices, D2N2 has this year reduced the number of Advisory Boards from 4 to 3 with the merger of the Business Growth and Innovation Boards. All Advisory Boards are chaired by a private sector Board member and each have at least one nominated Inclusion and Diversity representative at all times. In alignment with the LEP Board, all recruitment exercises for Advisory Boards are conducted in an open and transparent manner and D2N2 aims to be inclusive of all sectors of the business community in the area.

At the November LEP Board we refreshed the Local Assurance Framework to ensure that our Governance is in line with best practice and implemented changes to improve our transparency, despite there being no formal changes to the NAF. Within the document particular areas of change to note were the inclusion of refreshed Terms of Reference for all Advisory Boards to be formalised in the document, inclusion of the Terms of Reference for the Nominations and Remunerations committee to outline board recruitment processes, transparency of LEP Officer salaries over £58,200 in line with public sector best practice. Local Assurance Framework changes also led to the formal adoption of the LEP's Inclusion and sustainability charters which align with our commitment to inclusive and sustainable growth.

Through our Accountable Body structure, we continue to regularly engage with the formal scrutiny and improvement processes. As well as this we have once again being independently audited by the Accountable Body which reinforced the strong governance in place with only one formal recommendation which is being actioned.

Chair & Chief Executive Sign-off:

Signed:



Name: Elizabeth Fagan

Position: Chair

Date: 19 January 2021

Signed:



Name: Sajeeda Rose

Position: Chief Executive Date: 19

January 2021